

Rockville Environment Commission

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, July 12, 2011

At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich-Carr, Kris Dighe (phone), Anne Goodman and Beri Kravitz (Acting Chair).

Absent: John Becker, Christine Davidson-McCord, Donna Vincent Roa and David Zbarsky.

Guests: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management
Devinie Lye, Resident, Commissioner Nominee
Clark Reed, Resident, Commissioner Nominee

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm by Acting Chair Kravitz.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Palakovich-Carr moved approval and Cardon seconded with several minor revisions. The Commission approved the minutes 4-0-1.

Annual Accomplishments Reports (FY 2010 & FY 2011)

Environmental Management has drafted the annual accomplishments and goals report covering FY 2010 and FY 2011. When final, the reports will be forwarded to the City Clerk's office and then on to the Mayor and Council. Commissioners are asked to review these short documents and provide any comments or revisions to Mark Charles by July 22, 2011.

Environmental Excellence Award Nomination

An Environmental Excellence Award nomination has been submitted Fitzgerald Collision Center, 1570 Rockville Pike, Rockville, 20852-1602. The Award identifies environmental practices taken by the facility, including recycling, alternative energy (the facility is 100% wind powered) and in compliance with international environmental performance standards. A follow up Site visit will be scheduled by Commissioner Cardon. Other Commissioners may also attend the site visit.

Committee Reports

Watersheds

- Palakovich-Carr reported that the Committee met on June 22, 2011. In the future, the meetings will switch to the Third Tuesday of each month (no meetings are scheduled for July or August).

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- The Committee discussed the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and its implications for Rockville.
- The group also discussed the success of the City's *Rainscapes* and Adopt-A-Stream programs.
- The group was also briefed on the final findings and recommendations for the Cabin John Watershed Assessment that will be presented to the mayor and Council on July 18, 2011.
- The Rock Creek Watershed Assessment is now underway and the contractor, URS Corp. is currently conducting field work in the watershed.
- Finally, the Committee members encourage other Commissioners to attend the Science Café on July 19 at 7:00 pm, and an invasive species *tour* in Maryvale Park on July 23 at 9:00 am.
- It was suggested that the Commission request one or more permanent signs to alert residents that a stream clean-up is occurring (and encouraging their participation). The matter was referred to the Committee to design the sign and submit it to the full Commission, and then to Environmental Management.

Outreach

- The Committee did not meet in June. The next meeting of the Committee is tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2011 which will be a strategic planning meeting.
- The Commission briefly discussed whether to schedule a *Thank You Event* for volunteers serving on the Committees and volunteering in water quality programs such as Adopt-A-Stream, Volunteer Stream Monitoring and *Rainscapes*. This matter was also referred to the Outreach Committee to develop a proposal for the full Commission.

Sustainable Development and Energy

- The Committee did not meet in June. The next meeting of the Committee will be July 28, 2011 which will be a strategic planning meeting.

Strategic Retreat

Commissioners designated Saturday, October 15, 2011 for the Strategic Retreat. Mark Charles will reserve the Cottage at Glenview Mansion.

Transfer Station Tour

Commissioners identified Tuesday evening, August 9 as the preferred date for a tour. Mark Charles will contact the County.

Environmental Management Update

- Kris Dighe was reappointed as Commission Chair on July 11, 2011.
- Erica Shingara has returned to Environmental Management from maternity leave.

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- The College Garden Stormwater Project has won an “*Innovative Infrastructure*” Award from the Maryland Department of the Environment. The award is being presented at the Water Quality Innovations Trade Show at MDE on July 13, 2011.
- The Mayor and Council adopted green purchasing language into the City’s Procurement Code (Chapter 17) on June 13, 2011. Erica Shingara is assisting the City Finance Office to develop a detailed green purchasing manual and training for City staff.

Future Meeting Topic

Commissioner Kravitz requested that the Commission discuss an equitable method of storing outreach materials and displays. At present all such materials are being stored by two Commissioners.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 7:30 pm** at **Rockville’s City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850